

SECRET CONTROL

Symphony

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA
APO 777

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Vienna, Austria Field Hq. File LVA 216
SCI/A

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE:	PERIOD COVERED:	MADE BY:
Vienna	.4.46	- 17.4.46	DD 110

SUBJECT:	SPECIFIC:	Original Project Report	STATUS:
	GENERAL :	SYMPHONY PROJECT	Pending

SOURCE: DD 110

REFERENCE: X2TS-2231, X4115

SYNOPSIS:

1. Project SYMPHONY proposes to use the influx of Jewish Refugees into Austria from Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland for sources of CI information, for exact data on the Intelligence service of the Jewish Agency in Austria, for all intelligence activities run by any persons or organizations who use this influx of Jews into Austria for such purposes.

2. This report contains information on the emigration of Jews into Austria from the above-mentioned countries and on the head-agent of the Jewish Agency in Austria, Arthur PIER.

3. It also contains an expose of the aims of Project SYMPHONY and the means which will be used to attain these aims.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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A. AIMS OF PROJECT

1. Immediate Aims (overt):

To extract information of CI value from refugees escaping from Russian-occupied countries: composition, trends and activities of the communist parties in these countries; location and identification of concentration camps in Russia and Russian-dominated countries; identification of NKVD deserters or NKGB deserters; identification of NKVD agents or communist agents sent amongst the refugees; identification and elimination of Nazi elements, infiltrating amongst the refugees to escape punishment from the authorities of their respective countries.

2. Immediate Aims (covert):

a. To ascertain and locate the agents of the Jewish Agency in Austria who run both the emigration of Jews from Russian-dominated countries and a highly efficient intelligence service into those countries; to ascertain and spot those persons who smuggle Jews out of those countries for high sums of money and who, being in contact with NKVD officials, also smuggle war criminals and agents into the Allied-occupied zones, to work either in Austria or in Palestine.

b. To locate those persons within official organizations, such as the Hungarian Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, some so-called repatriation committees with unofficial or semi-official status, the UNHRA and the (Lublin) Polish repatriation committees, who provide false papers and identification cards to those smugglers and to the smuggled for the furtherance of this traffic; to take all measures of security safeguard to eliminate or neutralize such traffic when it becomes a danger to the security of the Allied-occupied zones or to its establishments and units.

3. Long-range Aims:

To penetrate those organizations of whatever kind they are -- Jewish, political or of intelligence nature of any country -- which send Russian-trained or Russian-inspired agents through this flow of Jewish refugees to further propaganda or intelligence aims either in Allied-occupied zones of Austria or Germany, in Allied countries such as France, Italy, the United States and/or Palestine.

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B. EXECUTION OF THESE AIMS:

See below, paragraphs I 1-4.

C. THE SO-CALLED JEWISH UNDERGROUND EMIGRATION MOVEMENT

1. General MORGAN of UNRRA recently made a statement to the press about a vast underground organization which is constantly pouring Jewish refugees into Allied-occupied zones of Germany and Austria and then sends them either to the United States or to Palestine, legally or illegally.

2. To understand the project SYMPHONY, it is deemed necessary to draw a brief history of this movement and to exactly describe what happens in Austria. The problem as specified by General Morgan is oversimplified and does not place it in its exact light, nor does it take care of its exact aims or antecedents.

That's what Morgan says!

3. The exodus of Jews from Russian-occupied countries is an exact replica of the vast legal or illegal emigration movement which began at the ascension of the Nazi Party in Germany around 1932. Hundreds of thousands of Jews fled Germany with the aid of Jewish communities of countries neighboring Germany, (Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, etc.), to find their way to any country in Europe or into Palestine. When Germany completely closed its borders, this smuggling had to become clandestine. High Nazi officials, officially or unofficially, were paid large sums to facilitate the emigration of Jews; the Gestapo made a real business out of it. Refugees committees were set up in the neighboring countries to help the Jews in their transit through the free countries and to facilitate their emigration to America or to Palestine. These refugees committees were financed either by collections and contributions from their members or rich Jews in free countries. When the finances of these committees were not sufficient, the deficits were made up by the American Joint Distribution Committee, through its representatives in these various countries. The American Joint Distribution Committee also financed, supervised and arranged for transport and settlement of the persecuted Jews either in Palestine or in the United States.

4. As the war drew on and border restrictions became more and more stringent, the Political Section of the Jewish Agency, under SZERBOK, organized a special section whose duties it was to contact the Jewish communities in German-occupied countries.

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This section has its own couriers who brought letters and money to the remnants of the Jewish communities in Nazi-dominated countries and smuggled "Jewish" intelligence out of these countries. Headquarters of this section were established in Switzerland (Berne and Zurich) and in Turkey (Istanbul). (Vide GROSS-BRANDT case and interrogation this case officer of Erich WENDEK, alias Sheliach EKI). (LVX 207). The various British Intelligence services freely used the emissaries of this section for penetration, intelligence and DA purposes. The representatives of the AJDC acted as liaison with the Allied Intelligence Services and eventually financed this courier-cum-intelligence service.

5. This part of the actions of the "SI" section of the Jewish Agency is sufficiently known to competent authorities, but it has been deemed necessary to repeat it here so as to show the connection with the present emigration movement and the present project.

D. THE PRESENT JEWISH UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT IN AUSTRIA

1. The present emigration "underground" movement is simply a continuation of the one which provided the Allied Intelligence Services and principally the Jewish Agency with valuable intelligence during this war.

2. The present emigration started officially as a Jewish action to help those Jews who had escaped the tortures of the concentration and extermination camps, to feed and clothe them and to further their emigration either to the United States or to Palestine, legally or illegally. These "transit camps" for former concentration camp inmates and political prisoners, established in the US Zone were, and are still, located in Mauthausen, Bindernichl, near Linz, Badgastein, Wels, Freilassing, Bavaria, and are helped by local Jewish committees, the UNRRA and (later) by the AJDC representatives, who had arrived in the meantime.

3. Slowly a road was established through which these persecuted Jews were to find their way to Palestine, or, if not, to the United States. Those wanting to go to Palestine were directed to Italy, over the French-occupied zone of Austria and the Brenner Pass. The various Red Cross organizations helped to further this emigration. Once the refugees were in Italy a boat service was arranged from Genoa to transport the refugees to Greece, where they would eventually find their way into Palestine.

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4. Anti-Semitism beginning to flare up in the countries now occupied by the Russians, and conditions beginning to become worse for the Jews in general, the Jewish Agency of Palestine began taking up the work which it had been doing during the war against Germany. The same plan is being used. This time the headquarters of the organization is in Vienna, at the apartment No. 6, Frankhgasse, No. 2, Vienna IX. The head agent for the Jewish Agency in Austria is the Palestinian known here under the name of Arthur PIER. PIER, or "BEN-ZVI" as he is known in the Jewish Agency under his operational name, asserts to be born in Vienna on 15 February 1921, of (fnu) PIER and (fnu) WIZNIZER. He claims to be Austrian. His private address is Krcindlgasse, 1a, Vienna XIX, telephone A-13042. He has an Austrian identity card No. D 136878/46, given him by the Vienna Police Presidium on 19 March 1946. He claims to be the correspondent for the "Hatzofeh", newspaper in Tel-Aviv, of which he has the Palestinian press card No. 36, given him in Tel-Aviv on 18 February 1946 and expiring on 18 August 1946. He also claims to be the correspondent for the "Palcor" (Palestinian Telegraphic Agency) for Austria, Germany and the Middle European countries. He is also officially accredited with the local Joint Distribution Committee as a staff member. He is not accredited to the Public Relations Officer, Vienna Area Command of USFA. He travels sometimes on orders provided him by USFA through the AJDC. He is accredited to the British Public Relations Officer, BTA, because "he transmits newspaper items and reports to London and Palestine".

5. Officially PIER is here to collect items of Jewish interest for his newspaper employer, principally items on atrocities against Jews during the war and after. This he does through interrogation of Jewish refugees coming from the different countries, in which he is interested. Actually he runs a highly efficient intelligence net, through couriers into Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. He is also running another net which tracks down Germans either free or in captivity in the Allied -occupied zones of Germany or Austria, who are suspected or proven to have been committing atrocities against Jews during the war. He then delivers the proofs to the official authorities for punishment through the War Crimes Investigations courts. He and his agents also track down any clues or documents which might be of any value to the Jewish Agency. For instance, his informants having heard that a certain number of papers belonging to the Grand Mufti had been captured in Badgastein, he made every effort to secure them or to photograph them so as to bring a case against the Grand Mufti, who is living in comparative comfort near Paris.

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(Actually the documents were turned over to the Documents Center, USFA, who in turn sent them on to the State Department people in Frankfurt). (See LVX Memo 256). PIER's agents having found out that another batch of papers belonging to the Grand Mufti having been captured in Vienna by the Russians, he is now negotiating with the Russians to secure them or photograph them.

6. In addition to these intelligence duties mentioned above, PIER and his men are running and coordinating the emigration of Jews from Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland (See following paragraphs).

E. EMIGRATION OF JEWS INTO AUSTRIA ORGANIZED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY

1. The present emigration movement of Jews from Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland is one which is unofficially tolerated by the commanders of the United States Forces in Austria and by G-5 of the same headquarters. It is financed or provided with other material help by the American Joint Distribution Committee, through its chief American representative, SACHS in Vienna, or its local American representative in Salzburg, RICE. Both these offices act in liaison with the DP Section, Vienna Area Command of USFA and with UNHRA authorities, who have representatives in the various Jewish DP camps in the American Zone of Austria. (See below).

2. Although the official organizers are the AJDC people, it is actually PIER and his men who coordinate the entire movement. PIER ascribes the ease with which the system works to the complete disorganization of border controls at the various frontiers. A hasty picture of the emigration procedure follows:

a. There are two kinds of Jews who want to emigrate. The young ones, who belong to a Zionist organization in some Balkan country and who have been trained for emigration and settlement in Palestine by doing agricultural training in some farms in their country of origin. When they are ready to leave, their local committees contact PIER's men in their particular country, who arrange for transportation. Groups are formed of about twenty or thirty under their own leaders, with whom they will go to Palestine. When there is some space available in the special Jewish transit camp in Vienna, located at the primary school in the Alserbacher Strasse, Vienna IX, the "transport leaders", who are PIER's men, contact them, arrange for transportation and bring them into Vienna by rail.

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Exit permission for any country except Poland is easy to obtain and no papers are checked at any frontier guard station. In Czechoslovakia, a frontier guard guards the train to ascertain that nobody remains in Czechoslovakian territory. The Russian authorities do not check any papers. This procedure is slightly different as to the exit from Poland. As the Lublin government does not allow any official emigration, the crossing of the borders by these transports is done illegally by PIER's men. Once in Czechoslovakia the groups take the train and cross to Czecho-Austrian border, where they finally arrive at Florisdorf, near Vienna. Actual crossing points at the Polish-Czech border have not yet been ascertained. The organized groups of future Palestine colonists await their transit to other camps and either with Palestinian immigration certificates or without them find their way into Palestine. These groups are known to their chiefs, who have trained with them in their country of origin. They belong to all shades of Zionist organizations from the extreme rightist Revisionists (BETHAR or BRITH TRUMPELDOR) to the socialist HASCHOMER HAZAIR. These groups are enthusiastic Zionists and may later form the backbone of a Jewish Army. Their ages range from fourteen to thirty. They are not specifically religious. A special DP camp for extremely religious young immigrants has been established by the PIER organization at a house, located at No. 27 Goldschlaggasse, Vienna XV. Many of the young immigrants have been enrolled during this war in the Soviet Army in various capacities. Thus, one of the groups recently was headed by a young Jew who had been a Major in the Soviet Army.

b. The other kind of emigrant is composed of any element of Jew wanting to emigrate. Any Jew in his respective country who desires to leave his country reports to an AJDC committee in Bucharest, Budapest, Bratislava, Breslau, Lwow, etc, and applies for a place in a group. Very little screening is done at this stage. As soon as groups are formed and PIER has been informed of its constitution, he sends out his messengers (SHLICHIM) who pick up the groups at the starting point. This is only done if there is space available at the Vienna Jewish DP camps. (See below). If the transport originates from Rumania, Hungary or Czechoslovakia, the "messenger" receives the lists of people from the group leaders, who are appointed on the spot from one of the members of a group. It is to be noted here that the self-appointed group leaders do not know the members of their groups before the departure, which leaves open any opportunity of anyone's slipping into the group who is either not Jewish or is a Jew who joins the group for other purposes than pure emigration.

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The "messenger" then takes the groups by rail to Vienna where they are registered in a DP camp and then await transportation to the next camp. It has happened frequently that non-Jews have slipped into these groups and were lodged in the Jewish DP camps. After a short time their Christian, or "other" status is found out and frequent instances have occurred where such "black sheep" have been discovered, thoroughly beaten up and then delivered to the US Military Police. If the emigration of such miscellaneous groups is to be made from Poland the "messengers" smuggle the groups over the Czech-Polish frontier with the help of local Jewish committees. Once the Czech frontier is crossed the groups take the train for Bratislava, whence they take some train which will bring them to Floridsdorf.

3. Recently the Austrian Red Cross has been helping the emigration of miscellaneous groups from Poland into Austria. When this happens, a representative of the Austrian Red Cross is added to the transport. The transport is formed in Breslau, headed by the Austrian Red Cross man and a "messenger", they take a train which leads to Zebrzydowice (Poland), from there cross into Czechoslovakia, arrive in Bugumin (CSR), Breslav (CSR), Bernostve (CSR) and from there a train transports them to Floridsdorf, near Vienna. The only control is by the Czech frontier guard at Bugumin, whence a frontier guard remains on the train until it reaches Floridsdorf, to ensure that no one remains in Czech territory.

F. JEWISH DP CAMPS IN VIENNA

1. There are two large and two smaller Jewish DP camps in Vienna, supervised by the AJDC, the DP Sections Vienna Area Command and USFA and actually run by PIK's men. They are all situated in the US Occupied Zone of Vienna.

2. The biggest one is situated in the former Rothschild Hospital, at the Waehringer Guertel, Vienna IX. (It has a capacity of 750, but as transit of refugees has stopped and transports have been pouring in, it now houses 1300 refugees. As further transports arrive, it has been contemplated taking a large establishment next door which will increase the capacity of this camp to 2000). Here the miscellaneous refugees arrive. They are registered by PIER's men and summarily screened. These lists are submitted to PIK, who personally, or through his men, interrogates them on possible intelligence or information desired by the Jewish Agency. They will remain here until a possibility exists to send them further on to the next stop, the Jewish transit camp at Enns. The exact lists of arrivals is not given to the DP officer, who has an office in the building. This

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allows PIER to transport anyone he desires and whose identity he does not wish to reveal. The Rothschild DP camp is administered by a permanent staff paid by the AJDC in Vienna. Actually, they are PIER's henchmen, who only obey him, blindly.

3. The next biggest DP camp is situated at the primary school at the Alserbachstrasse. It has a capacity of 350 men and women. It is exclusively reserved for organized groups of young Jewish future colonists. (See paragraph E2). The youths are not allowed to leave the place during their stay in Vienna. The camp receives the material help of the AJDC and of UNRRA. It is again run by a small staff of permanent members who obey only PIER.

4. The third smallest is the house at No. 27, Goldschlaggasse, Vienna XV (the only one in the French Zone). It is exclusively reserved for Jewish refugees who obey strictly the religious and dietary laws, but who are still trained for colonists work in Palestine.

5. The smallest "camp" is situated at apartment No. 2, Frankgasse, Vienna IX (near USFA Headquarters). It houses about two dozen Jewish refugees and serves as a cover for PIER's intelligence activities. It is officially known as "an American transit camp for Jewish former concentration camp inmates". PIER's office is located there. Lists of arriving refugees everywhere else are drawn up. All telephoning to Bratislava, Budapest, Berne, Germany and Austria is done from this telephone (No. A-27261). PIER receives his messengers (SHELICHIM) there and coordinates the arrival and the departures of the convoys from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Interrogations of especially interesting refugees are held in the apartment. The office staff is composed of members of PIER's organization.

G. OTHER JEWISH DP CAMPS IN AUSTRIA

1. Apart from the number of Jewish DP camps named in paragraph D2, there are a number of transit camps which constitute the chain to transport the incoming refugees from the Balkans either to Palestine or to Germany (ultimate destination, the USA?).

2. As soon as room is open in the next camps, the Jewish refugees are moved out of Vienna, by trucks and transported to the transit camp at Enns. Generally they only stay in Vienna about three or four days, but owing to the closing of the frontiers in Germany, refugees are in Vienna more than three weeks.

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Another transit camp is situated at Wels. The Russian authorities at the Enns bridge do not question the transports, of which they see only a total list submitted by the UNRRA man who accompanies every transport. On the permanent staff of both the Enns camp and the Wels camp are men of PIER's.

3. The refugees who do not intend to go to Palestine are then transported to Freilassing in Bavaria, where again no check is being made by the military authorities, as there is a lack of official orders about this transit. Again a general list is submitted and the personalities of the refugees are not checked by any security agency.

4. The refugees intending to go to Palestine or at least to Italy are directed to Salzburg, where they are housed in Mulln camp (capacity about 250 men). This camp is run by a man known also under the operational name of ZWI, who is a former member of the Jewish Brigade, especially detached from the Brigade to work for PIER. (This is the case for most of PIER's men and women). This camp is supervised by a local UNRRA team and aided materially by the Salzburg representative of the AJDC, RICE, an American citizen.

H. OTHER EMIGRATION MOVEMENTS

1. The intelligence possibilities of this flow of emigration from Russian-occupied countries has not been overlooked by different intelligence services. The (London) Polish Intelligence Service, in the person of Major ZHILINSKY, the Salzburg Liaison Officer to the US 42d Infantry Division, has at different times approached the Salzburg AJDC man to allow him to use the emigration movement for their own courier service into Poland. There is no doubt that the Russian intelligence services are using this flow of Jews to infiltrate Jewish or non-Jewish agents into the Allied zones.

2. Apart from the Jewish Agency emigration which monthly permits from 3000 to 3500 refugees to enter the Allied zones, a certain number of "rackets" are being operated, which can only operate (a) because of insufficient supervision of the American authorities, and (b) with the help of foreign services, such as the Hungarian State Police, the NKVD, the Hungarian Red Cross, the UNRRA, the (Lublin) Polish repatriation committees in the American zone. A few examples: The regular traffic of non-Jews, Nazis, etc., from Budapest to Vienna run by one Gabor Salzl, who with the complicity of the NKVD in Budapest,

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smuggled Nazis out of Budapest for emigration into Palestine. This man even went so far as to have his customers circumcised before their departure and converted by an official of the Jewish Community in Budapest. (See my memo LVX 241, dated 8 April 1946). Another example is that of one Alfred ~~SCHMIDT~~, the former representative of the AJDC in Budapest, who was sent into the US zone to organize the repatriation of Hungarian Jews to Hungary. He was, until lately, given the use of a special "DP camp" at No. 10 Strudelhofgasse by the DP Section, Vienna Area Command. His rather shady contacts with the Hungarian Red Cross and his emigration of non-Jews from Hungary, forced the US authorities to have him renounce this DP camp. He is now housed in the offices of the Hungarian Red Cross at the Collegium Hungaricum, No. 5, Museumstrasse, Vienna.

3. Apart from the above-mentioned emigration "rackets" which are practically official, or at least not checked, there are without doubt many similar organized bands who, with the aid of forged papers of Red Cross organizations or refugee aid organizations, are emigrating non-Jewish "refugees" whose aims are definitely not those of emigrating purely to the USA or to Palestine. It will be the duty of this project to locate them and neutralize their intelligence activities.

I. EXECUTION OF PROJECT AIMS

1. American personnel will be placed as newspaper men in the DP camps of the Rothschild Institute and the Alserbacherstrasse DP camp for interrogation of refugees--their aim being to collect straight intelligence on Russian OB, NKVD activities of recent date, background material of economic and political nature. This overt project of rather SI nature than X-2, will be the starting point for the careful recruiting of agents for the furtherance of all covert aims enumerated in paragraph 2.

2. Careful selection of Jewish agents in Vienna to be used to collect information on emigration movements other than the Jewish Agency one, and eventually to penetrate them. Further reports will describe any such racket uncovered with exact descriptions of their activities, roads, personalities and possible intelligence activities.

3. Contact with the Jewish Agency people on an unofficial basis will allow this project to ascertain the personalities involved in any other activities, other than the purely emigrative ones, their contact men in Hungary, Rumania,

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Czechoslovakia and Poland, the routes followed to emigrate refugees into the Allied Zones. The Jewish Agency people seem willing to inform on any other emigration movement which might ruin their activities in the eyes of the US authorities. Information of high intelligence value is being promised by the Jewish Agency people. For instance, the Jewish Agency people are arranging the desertion of a Jewish NKVD major in Vienna around the middle of May 1946. This project will be allowed to hold this Russian officer at its disposal until such time that his detention will not be necessary any more.

4. Long-range aims: (Reference JJ-1 memo 12 March 1946). Will be developed in due time along the lines set down in the memo.

J. PERSONALITIES

Vetting of possible agents will be forwarded before recruiting of same.

Enclosure:

Photo of Arthur PIER
(to Salzburg and Washington only)

Michael PINES.
Description above
misrepresents case.

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